

our coal mines, we depend on those level-headed, brave individuals who do the best they can at the scene to save lives and manage the disaster.

While we sort out the lesson of the Darby mine tragedy, we must also recognize those who had little time to study, deliberate and analyze what to do. They acted.

And because they did, someone lived. I commend these three individuals for answering the most important call any of us could ever get—and having the courage that now provides some solace where there would otherwise be none.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, May 17, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on the following amendments to H.R. 1427.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 378 on the amendment offered by Rep. BACHUS, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 379 on the amendment offered by Rep. HENSARLING, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 380 on the amendment offered by Rep. MCHENRY, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 381 on the amendment offered by Rep. KANJORSKI, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 382 on the amendment offered by Rep. ROSKAM, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 383 on the amendment offered by Rep. GARRETT, I would have voted "nay."

TRIBUTE TO 34TH ANNUAL NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the 34th Annual National Emergency Medical Services Week, designated this year May 20–26, 2007. It is truly a privilege to honor these brave men and women who provide essential lifesaving services to our communities throughout the Eighth Congressional District.

EMS Week serves as a time to honor and celebrate our medical emergency personnel. These men and women respond to tragedies and situations we pray never come to us or our loved ones. They respond at a moment's notice to people caught in unimaginable circumstances and work tirelessly to provide emergency treatment and offer hope.

As children we all learned the value of stop, drop, and roll. Today our children learn those lessons and more that help keep them safe. From paramedics and EMTs to police officers and fire fighters, each serves a crucial role in keeping our communities educated and prepared to prevent future emergencies.

As we observe EMS Week this year let us not forget those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while performing their duty. These great men and women who have dedicated

themselves to protecting and saving the lives of our loved ones should not be forgotten. The safety of our friends and families depends on individuals like them who arrive to work every day prepared to respond, protect, and save lives.

As we celebrate this week I salute every hardworking American for their role in ensuring the safety of our communities. I also encourage you as residents to become aware of health and safety issues and familiarize yourself with emergency procedures. Let's all chip in and do our part to ensure our neighborhoods and streets remain safe for all to enjoy.

HONORING EDITH DUPIN

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Edith Dupin, a constituent and good friend, retiring next month from the Elizabethtown Chamber of Commerce after twenty years of service.

Ms. Dupin has overseen a vast expansion of the Hardin County Chamber of Commerce over the course of the last two decades. Upon her arrival, the Chamber had fewer than 200 members. She leaves the Chamber with more than 700 members. During her tenure she has helped develop several local events that have become staples to the Hardin County community including the Heartland Festival, Leadership Elizabethtown, and the holiday favorite, Christmas in the Park.

Always a straight talker, she has found many friends in the community. Through her tenacity and straightforwardness, she has been able to accomplish many positive objectives for the Chamber and the Elizabethtown community. Her legacy is evident through, among many other things, the local farmers market, numerous job fairs, and laying the groundwork for a possible return of commuter flights to Addington Field.

I would like to congratulate Edith for her service to the Elizabethtown community. I join countless neighbors from the Hardin County community in wishing her well in her future endeavors.

It is my great privilege to recognize my friend, Ms. Edith Dupin today, before the entire House of Representatives, for her service to Hardin County. She is an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HIGH SCHOOL FOR ENTERPRISE, BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY (EBT)

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize The High School for Enterprise, Business and Technology (EBT), of Williamsburg, Brooklyn in celebration of their 10th anniversary.

EBT's history has been one of hope, growth and a commitment to quality education for our community. More than ten years ago, the majority of local Williamsburg high school students attending the then Eastern District High

School had bleak prospects of graduating from high school. Thanks to the leadership of concerned education advocates, Eastern District was replaced by three new high schools, EBT being one of those entities. The school has evolved into one that has fostered educational growth and training to students throughout Brooklyn.

Since its inception in 1996, EBT has worked diligently to develop a solid learning and professional foundation, creating a wealth of opportunities for its students. The specialized curriculum serves as the school's cornerstone, offering our community's children an opportunity to pursue studies in areas, including: hospitality/tourism, computer science/networking, and business/finance. Through a classroom environment that emphasizes academic engagement, EBT has fostered the personal progress of countless residents.

The High School for Enterprise, Business and Technology's dedicated staff has been successful in nurturing the intellectual development of hundreds of Brooklyn's children. Their commitment to promoting academic opportunities has strengthened the institution's programs thereby enabling comprehensive support services and encouraging parent participation. Through the exceptional leadership of Principal Juan Mendez, this remarkable high school has effectively increased both the graduation as well as the college placement rate, resulting in socially-minded young adults devoted to the interests of Williamsburg—and our nation at large.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to honor The High School for Enterprise, Business and Technology. I would like to express my sincerest congratulations in commemoration of its 10th anniversary and express best wishes for a successful future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the chamber during the evening of Thursday, May 17, 2007. Had I been present for six rollcall votes taken that evening on amendments to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act of 2007, I would have voted as follows: "no" on rollcall No. 378; "no" on rollcall No. 379; "no" on rollcall No. 380; "no" on rollcall No. 381; and "no" on rollcall No. 382; and "no" on rollcall No. 383.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL ROBERT W. GATES, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of the life and dedicated service of Robert W. "Bob" Gates.